

News briefs

Community Bank hours

Due to staff training and district manager's visit, both branches of Community Bank provide limited hours Wednesday. The Spangdahlem Air Base branch opens 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the Bitburg Annex branch opens 9 a.m. to noon.

Assumption of command

The 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron (formerly 52nd Component Repair Squadron) assumption of command takes place July 26 at 3 p.m. in building 364 (fuel barn). Maj. Geoffrey Bacon will assume command. Transportation to the fuel barn departs from building 44 for those without flightline access. Refreshments follow immediately at the Spang Club.

Technology expo

The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association holds its 2002 Technology Exposition July 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Saber Club.

More than 30 exhibitors are expected to present demonstrations in the latest technologies, including encryption products, Internet and infrastructure solutions, mobile command post systems and secure fax, desktops and notebooks.

To attend, e-mail to Alison Hammock at hammock@ncsievents.com.

Driver's safety training

The local conditions driving course is now held in building 307 Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Scheduling for training is not required, but people who wish to get a U.S. Army Europe driver's license must attend this briefing prior to taking the driving test. For more information, call Helmut Rass at 452-7233.

New medals, awards

The Air Force's top civilian leader recently authorized the creation of a new medal and two new awards to recognize outstanding achievement or service in wartime operations.

The Air Force Campaign Medal will recognize significant direct contributions to wartime operations, according to Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche.

"The awarding of campaign medals to specially recognize people and units who fight our wars is a long-standing military tradition," Roche said.

"Historically, the Department of Defense's

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Eifel Times

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Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

July 12, 2002

Final Spangdahlem flight

Col. Greg Ihde, former 52nd Fighter Wing commander, thanks Senior Airmen Martin Lopez and Matt Thornburg, Staff Sgt. Daryl Page and Airman 1st Class Randy Williams, 22nd Fighter Squadron dedicated crew chiefs, for their help with his fini-flight July 3. Ihde left Spangdahlem Air Base Wednesday to become the Air Component Coordinating Element Director at Combined Joint Task Force 180, Bagram, Afghanistan. The new wing commander, Col. Stephen P. Mueller, coming to Spangdahlem AB from the Pentagon, arrives this weekend. Mueller's assumption of command ceremony takes place July 22 at 12:30 p.m. in Hangar 1.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

Wing officials renovate housing policies

Members have more choices on where to live regardless of rank

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Recent wing housing policy changes, which went into effect July 1, grant members more choices on where to live.

A few of those changes allow people currently living in military family housing or government-leased housing to move after one year, and families seeking more living space to sign up for a larger unit on or off base.

Additionally, unaccompanied members now may be allowed to choose between living in dormitories, military family housing

units or off base.

The policy changes are the result of base officials seeking ways to improve quality of life on Spangdahlem AB.

"Members have been calling to find out if these policy changes are true and are pleased when they find out the changes are to their benefit," said Ellen Sutterfield, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Housing Management Office director.

Recent Air Force military family housing policy changes deemed base housing units undersized, according to Lt. Col. Kurt Kaisler, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

Under the policy revisions, newly assigned accompanied members electing to live in MFH or GLH units will be assigned

See **Policy**, Page 3

Legal office gives advice for smart summer travel

52nd Fighter Wing Legal Office

Summer is the time that most people take advantage of the Eifel region's great location to see Europe and other nearby destinations.

Although travel does have some inherent risks, planning ahead and being educated about the common problems encountered by globetrotters can save headaches and money this summer.

The first step in any trip is preparation.

Be smart and stick to reputable agencies when making travel arrangements. People who decide to use an online agency or discount broker, should check their qualifications. How long have they been in business? Do the U.S. companies belong to professional associations such as the American Society of Travel Agents?

If booking with an unfamiliar company, get its complete name, address and local phone

number. Some people might be surprised to find that several major online agencies operate out of countries such as Thailand.

Get the details of the vacation in writing and a copy of the cancellation and refund policies. Consider using a personal credit card to make ticket or hotel purchases.

Credit cards often give additional accident/travel insurance, though people should check with credit card companies for

details. Travelers may be able to dispute credit card charges with the card company if they don't receive the product or service they were promised.

Be sure to get reservations confirmed in writing when buying tickets. If buying tickets from an online agency or a discount airline, read through the final costs carefully.

See **Travel**, Page 3

Accidents

By John W. Keeler
52nd Security Forces Squadron
Reports and Analysis

Sixteen Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, three of which were major.

The first major accident happened on B-50 between Niederkail and Binsfeld. An airman tried to avoid a head-on collision and fish-tailed off the road into a ditch. No one was injured. Damage to his vehicle consisted of dents and scratches to the passenger side and motor fluid loss. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

The second happened on L-50 near Arenrath. The Wittlich Polizei determined an airman was traveling too fast for road and weather conditions. He collided with a German national who was slowing to turn. After impact, the airman's car spun around and was hit by a German dump truck. No one was injured. The airman's vehicle had major rear-end damage. The other

vehicle damage is unknown at this time.

The third was near Schaldt on L-60. Security forces investigation found a local national, who was speeding, lost control of his car and collided with a family member's vehicle. The local national had minor injuries and was transported to Daun Hospital. The family member had a compound fracture to the leg, and was medically evacuated to Mutter Haus in Trier. Both vehicles had major front-end damage and were towed from the scene.

The 13 minor accidents involved:

- One from backing.
- Nine from inattentive driving.
- One parking lot related.
- Two for speed too fast for conditions.

In addition, 15 citations were issued, and two apprehensions were made for driving under the influence.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

A group farewell

Members of the 52nd Fighter Wing members give a final salute to Col. Greg Ihde, former 52nd Fighter Wing commander, as he and his family depart the base Wednesday morning. Because of his short-notice assignment to Bagram, Afghanistan, the typical change of command ceremony wasn't possible.

DOD restarting modified anthrax vaccine policy

Defense Department officials announced recently they are restarting a modified Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program now that the vaccine provider has passed Food and Drug Administration scrutiny.

Only servicemembers, essential civilians and contractor employees going to or serving in high-threat areas will receive the vaccine, said Dr. Bill Winkenwerder, assistant defense secretary for health affairs. This is because half the contractor's vaccine production will be stockpiled for civilian use.

"We recognize there is a domestic need for access to the vaccine," Winkenwerder said. "In collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Homeland Security, we are reserving a portion of the anthrax vaccine for stockpiling ... to use in the event of a domestic emergency."

In 1998, the DOD began a plan to vaccinate all military members against the deadly, potential biological weapon. The program was pared down several times in the intervening years as the sole provider of the vaccine shut down its factory for renovations and then had problems gaining FDA approval of its production process.

Vaccine shortages eventually caused the DOD to vaccinate only limited numbers of

servicemembers serving in "designated special mission units."

The contractor, Biopart of Lansing, Mich., gained FDA approval of its renovated facility in January and is ready to begin providing additional stocks of the vaccine to the DOD.

Winkenwerder said the new policy is "more targeted" than the previous plan to vaccinate the total force. He said the numbers of servicemembers and essential civilians vaccinated will jump, but he would not say how high. Nor would he say what areas of the world are considered "higher threat."

"We will identify those areas to the servicemembers before they are deployed to those areas, but we don't intend to talk publicly about that as we describe the policy to the rest of the country, to the media," Winkenwerder said. "And the reason is, we don't intend to give our adversaries an indication of exactly who and when and where we've immunized people. We would like that to be a further deterrent to anybody who might think about using anthrax as a weapon."

The doctor said DOD medical officials hope to start vaccinating targeted members 45 days before they deploy. The vaccine requires six shots throughout an 18-month period for maximum immunity, but a relatively high

level of immunity is reached after the first three shots, he said.

Winkenwerder and Vice Adm. Gordon Holder, director of logistics on the Joint Staff, said the vaccination program may return to total-force coverage if vaccine availability improves and if the biological threat changes.

Individuals who started the six-shot series under the previous guidelines will resume the series where they left off.

Others who started the shots previously, but are not currently covered under the new program, will receive the rest of their shots "later into 2002, possibly as late as 2003, and that's because the supply of the vaccine is limited," Winkenwerder said.

He insisted there is no danger in stopping and restarting the series of shots. "Protection lasts months to years at some level," he said.

Under the previous program, 525,000 servicemembers received a total of 2.1 million doses of the vaccine. Contrary to widespread media reports of servicemembers refusing to be vaccinated, even at the cost of their careers, Winkenwerder said the true number is relatively small compared to the number of doses administered. The DOD has no formal method of counting refusals, but service chiefs report 441 servicemembers have refused to be

vaccinated. He said there have been no deaths linked to the vaccine.

In the earlier interview, Winkenwerder dismissed widespread claims that the vaccine is not safe or effective. He cited a study released March 6 by the Institute of Medicine that found the vaccine to be "effective protection against anthrax, including inhalation anthrax."

"The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences -- a very august, prominent body -- has said in a very large, in a very important, comprehensive report that the vaccine is safe and effective," Winkenwerder said. Other studies by reputable independent agencies have released similar conclusions.

Even though it is scaled back, the program will remain mandatory for troops in areas covered by the policy. Winkenwerder said this is no different from other vaccines and "medical interventions" that are mandatory for people based on where they're serving.

The DOD is working with HHS to develop a new anthrax vaccine that would require fewer shots and be made using a different, easier method, said William F. Raub, deputy director of public health preparedness at HHS. The two departments are also examining the current vaccine to see if its protocol can be changed. (Air Force Print News)

Briefs

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criteria for such awards have centered on geography to define the area of combat operations," he said. "In light of the expeditionary aerospace force environment and the transformation in the way the Air Force carries out its missions today, such criteria doesn't allow us to appropriately recognize our people who contribute directly and significantly to the success of wartime campaigns from outside the area of combat operations."

Therefore, in accordance with DOD policy, Roche authorized the creation of a medal to be given to Air Force people who are not eligible for a DOD campaign medal, but directly supported combat operations from a location outside the geographic area of operations.

The secretary said he also wants to ensure units are properly recognized for their actions in support of wartime efforts and has established two new Air Force unit awards.

The first award, the Gallant Unit Citation, will recognize

units for their significant combat heroism below that currently required for the Presidential Unit Citation. The second, the Meritorious Unit Award, will honor units for their outstanding achievement in direct support of combat operations.

The specific design and criteria for the new medal and awards are being reviewed, and a final decision on what they will look like and who is authorized to wear them will be reached in the next few months, Roche said. (Air Force Print News)

Dealing with deployment -- the deployed member

By Allison Carnahan
52nd Mission Support Squadron key spouse

Husbands and wives of military members know the possibility of deployments and remote assignments are real. When military members announce they have orders to some faraway place, spouses want to offer their support, but where should they begin?

Baggage space is usually limited for deploying members, so although photos and special reminders of family are important, they should be easy to pack and small. Instead of a fancy frame, use a pocket-sized photo album. Those with children should encourage them to draw a picture for mommy or daddy to take on their trip.

Once the military spouse settles in at

their location, staying in touch is vital. It's much easier today with e-mail availability, but don't forget to send hand-written letters as well. For both the spouse and the deployed member, reading handwritten letters is especially comforting during separation.

Everyone loves to receive packages from home, but items sent must be used or carried back.

When my husband was deployed during Christmas one year, instead of a large gift I sent a package a day for the 25 days of Christmas. That sounds like a lot, but some days it was toothpaste or deodorant — supplies I knew he was running low on. Other days it was hand-held games, baked

goods, even a tiny little Christmas tree and a three-inch stocking. I later found out that his entire tent was interested in the packages. Everyone wanted to know what was in the packages and he'd often share the goodies.

For his birthday, I sent seven birthday cards one for each day of the week of his birthday. These let him know he was being thought about and loved without adding to his already full footlocker.

Another special gift is children's artwork. These are more treasured than Picasso originals to deployed parents.

Just the sound of a loved one's voice is comforting. Using a micro-cassette recorder, I'd record our children singing or splashing

in the bathtub and having fun. This is also good if the children have mastered something new. They can tell the deployed parent about their accomplishment and demonstrate it on tape.

Recordings are wonderful coming from the deployed parent as well. Children love to hear the deployed parent's voice. Some even the recording around with them for days.

The goal of all of these ideas is to help erase the miles between the deployed member and the rest of the family. It reminds family members they're always together by heart.

Policy

Continued from Page 1

housing based on square footage versus number of bedrooms, said Sutterfield. Essentially, families now qualify for an additional bedroom beyond what they were formerly authorized. For example, a family with two children now qualifies for a four-bedroom housing unit instead of a three-bedroom.

There are some limitations and exceptions to the policy to cover hardships and other matters.

Families already living in MFH or GLH units must remain in government housing for one year and cannot move if they are within six months of a permanent change

of station. Families opting for quarters-to-quarters moves must do so at their own expense. This includes the move and general cleaning of their previous unit.

"Right now people are taking their time to find the ideal house off base so few people have signed up for this option," said Josephine Cardenas, housing office deputy director.

For those looking to live off base, base officials have been working with local agencies to expand the available housing listings maintained by the base housing office, Cardenas said.

One of the reasons for increasing the rental listings is a new policy offering most unaccompanied members the

choice to move out of dormitories and live on the economy or register for a two-bedroom MFH unit.

According to Master Sgt. Donnie Henderson, unaccompanied housing manager, only a few dozen airmen primarily residing in dormitories 177 and 178 have been selected to move based on their date of rank. Unaccompanied members who want to live off base or in MFH must work through Henderson and not the housing office. For more information, call 452-6664.

Accompanied residents interested in moving must apply at the housing office in Spangdahlem AB building 454. For more information on accompanied housing, call the office at 452-6036.

Travel

Continued from Page 1

That £5.99 ticket could cost more than \$100 once taxes, landing fees and other charges are added to the bill. Print the final pricing screen—it's the only proof as to how much the ticket actually cost.

Get information about the destination. The U.S. State Department has important information on crime, terrorism and health concerns for each country. Check their Web page at http://travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html

Travel with passports. Military ID cards, although possibly accepted once in a while within Europe, does not constitute proper travel documentation for entry into other countries on leisure travel. Those trying to board an international (including inter-European) flight with a military ID card will be left waiting at the gate.

Those driving should check the green insurance card to ensure that coverage extends to the countries in the planned itinerary. Poland is one popular destination that certain insurance companies do not cover. Those driving in Europe should also consider purchasing membership in ADAC. Usually one jump-start will pay for the cost of

the membership. Outside of Germany, other national auto associations often accept ADAC membership for use of their services.

If an emergency arises while traveling abroad, contact the local U.S. Embassy or Consulate for help. They are the only agencies that can reissue passports if lost while traveling. Additionally, don't forget to call the law enforcement desk at Spangdahlem Air Base if a military ID card is lost or stolen.

If ever a victim of theft or involved in an auto accident, make sure to get a police report from the local authorities. It may seem like a hassle, but failure to get a local police report will cause tremendous problems with getting an insurance settlement or protection when credit cards or checks are stolen.

Also, keep a list of credit card numbers and customer service contact information separate from your cards. If they're stolen, they need to be canceled immediately.

Finally, take time and consideration to have a will done to ensure that other legal affairs are taken care of for family members. It will help allow peace of mind to relax during the vacation.

New CMSAF

Commander of troops, Senior Master Sgt. Branford Edmunds (center) of the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard, escorts Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray (left) and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper on a troop inspection during Murray's welcome ceremony at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., July 1. Murray is the 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force. He grew up in Boiling Springs, N.C., and entered the Air Force in October 1977. His background includes various duties in aircraft maintenance, and as a command chief master sergeant at wing, numbered Air Force and major command levels. His assignments include bases in Florida, South Carolina, Washington and Georgia. The chief also served overseas in Turkey and Japan, and deployed in support of operations Desert Storm and Southern Watch. Before assuming his current position, he served as command chief master sergeant, Pacific Air Forces, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Spang community holiday party a BASH

Elisabeth Ama, daughter of Staff Sgt. Craig Ama, 52nd CES, spins around on one of the many kiddie rides during the BASH. The annual event invites the Spangdahlem Air Base community, including German neighbors, to the base to take part in games, rides, food and fun.

Emily Scott, daughter of Tech. Sgt. Dennis Scott, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, plunges into a cloud of sticky cotton candy during the Big Annual Summer Happening at the Bitburg Annex. BASH organizers estimate about 40,000 people attended the annual event.

Staff Sgt. John Smithhart and his military working dog, Jeck, and Airman 1st Class Thomas Hover, 52nd Security Forces Squadron, provide force protection during the BASH.

Festival-goers find amusement in the "Flying Circus" ride at the BASH. The annual services event took place July 4 through Sunday.

Community Mailbox

Vacation Bible school

Eifel Baptist Church vacation Bible school takes place Monday through July 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. The church is located on Charles Lindbergh Allee 10 on Bitburg Flugplatz. Call 06561-942940 for details or to register.

La Leche League

Breastfeeding mothers meet Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Bitburg Annex hospital conference room. Nurslings and children are welcome. Call Margaret Loffelman at 06565-7555 or Alice DaFoe at 06561-683893.

School bus news

Students needing bus transportation in the upcoming school year should register for a new pass by July 26 to receive them in the mail by Aug. 17. Parents registering students after July 26 should visit the student transportation office with a copy of the school registration form. The office is located in Spangdahlem Elementary School complex building 459. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m., and each Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. now through July 26. Call 452-5340 or 452-5352 for more information.

AFSA meeting

The Air Force Sergeant's Association Chapter 1681 holds its monthly general membership meeting July 23 at 11:30 a.m. at the Spangdahlem Air Base pavillion (next to the bowling center). All chapter members and people interested in joining AFSA are invited to attend the summer picnic together. Hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks will be served, starting at 11:15 a.m. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Jeff Bingman at 452-6703.

Open-air festival

The Kurley-Deudesfeld Wald-Thing Festival takes place Saturday and Sunday. The event features funk, rock and soul musical entertainment and free camping. Tickets cost 12 euro. Parking is free. Call 01755-656783 or visit www.kurley.net for more information.

Poland trip

The Holy Family Catholic parish Poland trip takes place Aug. 29-Sept. 4. The price of \$398 per person includes bus transportation, five overnight stays with breakfast buffets, city tours and various tour admissions. The first deposit is due Monday and final payment is due Aug. 15. Call Susan Burgess at 06561-945622 by Monday to register.

MOPS trip

Mothers of Preschoolers tours the Bitburg Annex fire department July 27 at 9:45 a.m. Mothers and children under 5-years-old are invited. Call Jolene Vorbeck at 06565-933487 for more information.

Youth volunteers needed

The American Red Cross seeks youth volunteers for the summer. Students in grades eight through 12 are encouraged to volunteer through the local branch for various library, medical clinic, office, dining facility and post office positions. Some locations have minimum age requirements. Call the American Red Cross at 452-9440 for details.

SMS library

The Spangdahlem Middle School library opens each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Children enrolled at SMS, as well as those enrolled at Bitburg Middle School, are able to check out books and use library resources. For more information, call Marlaine Newman at 452-7205.

Thrift shop

Penny Lane currently has transformers, clothes, furniture and baby items available. The shop is open each Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the first and third Wednesday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pet adoption

The veterinary clinic often has kittens, cats and other animals available for adoption. Currently, the clinic has a cat with feline leukemia that needs special care available for adoption. The vet recommends a family with no cats to adopt this cat. Call the clinic at 452-9388 for more information.

Summer reading

Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex libraries sponsor youth summer reading programs now through Aug.

16. Youth can register at either library. The program features weekly reading contests and bi-weekly crafts. Youth who have read 25 books or more during the summer earn certificates. Call the base library at 452-6203 or the Bitburg Annex facility at 452-9056 for details.

Craft classes

A basic stamping class takes place July 25 from 6-8 p.m. in Bitburg Annex building 2002. Cost is \$10, plus supplies. Register one week prior by calling the Craft Corner at 452-4141.

Scholarships

The Air Force Services Agency offers the Air Force Club Membership Scholarship to students of current club members. To qualify, applicants submit an essay of less than 500 words on how Air Force clubs help military traditions continue.

Base services officials will select two scholarship entries to compete at Air Force level. The prize is a \$5,000 scholarship. Submission deadline is July 15. Call the 52nd Services Squadron Marketing Office at 452-6466 for more information.

Picnics in the park

The Mothers of Preschoolers picnics in the park take place each Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. People can attend each Tuesday on the Bitburg Annex behind building 19 and each Thursday at Spangdahlem Air Base across from building 409. For more information, e-mail spangmops@yahoo.com or call the base chapel at 452-6711.

Spouse tuition assistance

Applications for Term 1 spouse tuition assistance are now available at the education office and the Bitburg Annex post office. Deadline is July 26. For more information, call the education office at 452-6063.

Education center

The base education center, located in building 192, is open Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

In addition to maintaining educational records for all active-duty members and offering guidance on various educational benefits programs, the center serves as the central point of contact for the Community College of the Air Force. The CCAF offers Associate of Science degrees based upon Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC). Call the center at 452-6335 or 452-6063 for more information.

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People may submit articles for publication in the *Eifel Times* to the public affairs office, building 23. **Deadline for submission is 10 days prior to desired publication date** and noon Mondays for weekend sports. Submission of articles by deadline does not guarantee publication. All articles are considered for publication. Time and space constraints, as well as style, dictate article allocation. The *Eifel Times* staff edits all articles prior to publication.

Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The *Eifel Times* staff can be reached at 452-5244. The e-mail address is publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil. The *Eifel Times* is published by Paulinus-Druckerei GmbH, Saarbrücken, Germany, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. government.

Photos are property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise noted. The Rumor Control Hotline is 452-6833.

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the *Eifel Times* and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

■DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil

■Mail to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126

■To public affairs in building 23.

■Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the *Eifel Times* at 452-5244 for more information.

Number of days
since last DUI:

As of Wednesday

9

You have a choice.
Call Airmen Against
Drunk Driving
at 452-2233.

Viewpoint

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July 12, 2002

Salute

Colonel Ihde expresses departing thoughts

By Col. Greg Ihde
Former 52nd Fighter Wing commander

How fitting ... light drizzle and bright-shining faces. When there was a police car in front of the house this morning, I thought it a bit odd; and when I was escorted out of housing and toward the front gate, I thought "how nice." When I saw the rows of airmen lining the street, the honor guard, and all the commanders and chiefs saluting, I felt both proud and honored to be associated with this wonderful group of

Americans and friends.

This has been the fastest and most fun 14 months of my Air Force career. As my family and I drove down the winding road toward Trier, it seemed appropriate that the best way to get somewhere is not always in a straight line. Spangdahlem Air Base has had its twists and turns this past year, but in following the more difficult path, you have truly shined.

Each of you are winners, and I want to thanks you all for giving 100 percent in every effort.

The base is a better place because of that effort. Keep it up!

There was no appropriate and meaningful way to thank you all this morning, short of getting out of the car and shaking everyone's hands individually. That was simply not possible, so please know that my salute was intended specifically for you, and again you have my grateful appreciation and thanks for permitting me and my family to be part of your lives.

Equal opportunity

When workplace comfort leads to conflict

By Tech. Sgt. Tom Koenig
52nd Fighter Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office

"Can you tone it down a little? Your language and jokes are a little offensive."

Those may be the hardest words to say to someone in hopes of curbing their conversations, yet at the same time you hope not to be perceived as "the complainer." Have you ever wondered why people talk or behave inappropriately even though they have heard the Air Force policies?

In my attempts to answer that question, I started studying people and their behaviors several years ago when I joined the Air Force. I continually observe two distinct factors.

First, notice the way people behave soon after they arrive at a duty station. Many times they are on their best behavior because they don't know very many people. However, the jokes, inappropriate speech and profanity begin as time progresses and their comfort level rises. This behavior continues as co-workers "chime in" on the talk and supervisors fail to maintain professional workplace standards and curtail inappropriate conversations.

Second, behavior is reinforced when people receive positive attention. Therefore, those who laugh or contribute to inappropriate jokes and language reinforce the behaviors. If no one corrects these behaviors the workplace norm will often shift to

nearly everyone contributing to the dialogue. At this time, newcomers or supervisors may find it very difficult to confront or change the norm. Often, people spend too much time trying to plan ways to address the situation instead of focusing 100 percent on mission accomplishment.

There are alternative ways to address uncomfortable situations.

First, try talking to the ones that offend you. Silence is agreement. If you don't address it, usually no one will. You may also consider discussing the issue with some friends, and having them confront the offender.

Another option is to gather your thoughts and write a letter to explain

your feelings and perceptions. Your supervisors, flight chief, first sergeant and commander are also there to assist you.

If inappropriate behaviors are accepted where you work, perhaps ask the commander to address the issue at a commander's call.

The bottom line is everyone should be able to focus on their job and not have to try and avoid others who are not following Air Force policies.

If you would like to discuss your workplace conflicts and receive some resolution possibilities, feel free to visit the equal opportunity office in Spangdahlem AB building 151 or call 452-6391. Visitors and callers may choose to remain anonymous.

Direct Lines

Neighborhood nuisances

Thanks to all who called about neighborhood concerns about uncontrolled pets and the sloppy appearance of base housing. I am disappointed to hear that children's play areas and personal property are being ruined by the pets of irresponsible housing occupants. The housing brochure clearly lists instructions for pet control.

- Pets must be leashed when outside your home.
- Pets are not to run free in the housing areas.
- Pet feces must be picked up immediately.
- Pets must not be allowed to relieve themselves in high play areas.

The April 12 Direct Line bears repeating, "While pets are allowed in base housing, it's the pet owner's duty to control them. This means controlling barking, keeping them on a leash when walking and picking up after them. It's not only unsightly; it's unsanitary and draws rats, martens and other pests into the areas children are playing.

"Do the right thing, be courteous, be a good neighbor, control your pets and pick up after them."

Members of Team Eifel are the eyes and ears of

their community. If you witness an infraction, speak with the neighbor or pet owner directly. If the neighbor is unresponsive and the behavior still continues, contact the stairwell, block, building or area leader. These people have authority to control housing occupant's behavior and I expect them to do so. If this doesn't solve the problem, ask for first sergeant or commander involvement. If warranted, I will direct the pet removed from base housing.

Our civil engineers are surveying all park and playground trash receptacles to determine the quantity and frequency of pick ups to minimize loose trash. Although we have 35 containers at Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex, we are taking another look to see where we need more.

Like taking care of pets, picking up trash and policing our housing areas falls upon the residents. In the high-density environment in which we live, it's everyone's job to pitch in (the trash cans, not on the ground).

As representatives of the United States, we need to demonstrate pride in our communities and respect for the laws and traditions of our host nation. If you see a neighbor cutting his grass or

washing his car on Sunday, it may be they aren't aware of the law or haven't read their housing brochure. Lawn mowing isn't permitted on Sundays and German holidays, nor is it permitted from 1-3 p.m. or from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. any day. German law also dictates quiet hours, which are Monday to Saturday 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. and all day on Sundays and German holidays.

Due to German environmental laws, the only places authorized for washing vehicles are the Bitburg Annex Car Wash next to the gas station and the wash stall in Spangdahlem AB Auto Skills Center. There are also several commercial car wash facilities in local communities.

Our communities are nice and can be even nicer with everyone's involvement, consideration, and cooperation. We ask everyone who lives in family housing to be considerate of his or her neighbors. Give each other full support to ensure housing areas and playgrounds are well kept and neat. Housing managers take charge of your unit and demand compliance. Thanks again for your expressing your concerns about our communities and play areas.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless indicated. More synopsis information is available at www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp.

Bitburg Castle

Today

Insomnia (R)

Starring Al Pacino, Robin Williams and Hillary Swank. A sleep-deprived detective is sent to a small Alaskan town to investigate the murder of a teen-age girl. Forced into a psychological game of cat-and-mouse by the primary suspect, events escalate and the detective finds his own stability dangerously threatened. (Language, some violence and brief nudity.)

Saturday

Insomnia

Sunday

The Sweetest Thing (R)

Starring Cameron Diaz and Selma Blair. Sexy and bold Christina Walters, after years of avoiding meaningful relationships with men, unexpectedly meets her perfect match one night while hanging out with best girlfriends Courtney and Jane. When she finds out the next morning that he's suddenly left town, she and Courtney set out to find him on a wild road trip, encountering a series of hilarious misadventures on their journey. Their search ultimately leads them to a surprising discovery and the realization that love is the sweetest thing. (Strong sexual content and language.)

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

Insomnia

Thursday

Life or Something Like it (PG-13)

Starring Angelina Jolie and Edward Burns. Lanie Kerrigan, a feature reporter at a Seattle TV station, leads the ultimate superficial life, even though she thinks she has it all - a superstar boyfriend, a gorgeous apartment and a shot at a big network assignment. Her perfect world starts unraveling after a homeless street seer tells Lanie that she leads a meaningless existence and will die the following week. When the savant's other predictions come true, Lanie begins to re-examine her life and priorities - which include rekindling a relationship with a cameraman with whom she has long been at odds.

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

The Sum of All Fears (PG-13)

Starring Morgan Freeman and Ben Affleck. The fourth film starring Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan character, this time Ben Affleck stars in the role made famous by Harrison Ford. In this installment, European neo-Nazi terrorists acquire a nuclear device and plan to use it at the Super Bowl, blaming the attack on Russia in the hopes of rekindling the Cold War. Luckily, CIA analyst Jack Ryan is on the case. (Violence, disaster images and brief strong language.)

Jason X (R, 10 p.m.)

The terror of Crystal Lake is back! This time he's not just slaughtering nubile campers in compromising positions. It is the year 2455, a professor takes his students on a field trip to the planet Earth, where they discover a cryogenically frozen Jason and transport him back to their spaceship. Jason Voorhees, the silent goalie-masked killer, has been on ice for a few hundred years, but through a catastrophic accident, he is awakened and more than willing to pick up where he left off - finding new and interesting ways to murder people.

Saturday

Life or Something Like It

The Sum of All Fears

Sunday

Jason X

Monday

Life or Something Like It

Tuesday

The Sum of All Fears

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.

Dancers line the streets of Bitburg for the Bitburg Folks Festival. Groups from 12 different countries will present traditional dances and music from their countries this weekend.

Iris Reiff

Experience European culture in Bitburg

By Iris Reiff

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Team Eifel members can get a taste of European culture in Bitburg this weekend when 32 groups from 12 different countries present traditional dances and music from their countries. For the first time, a group from Croatia will be among the performers.

More than 60,000 visitors are expected at the annual Bitburg Folks Festival, which has gained much popularity over the years throughout the entire European continent.

Activities kick off at tonight at 8, with a German folks music concert at the festival tent.

Things really get going Saturday at 10 a.m. when the groups present arts and crafts from their countries. People can enjoy breakfast and singing and dancing performances at that time.

More folk dancing takes place

Saturday at 2:30 p.m. on Petersplatz. A children's folks festival happens from 3-5 p.m. at the festival tent. It includes plays, a clown show, stilt walking and more.

Beginning at 8 p.m., the folk groups will gather in the tent for dancing performances. Audience participation is allowed at this event. People should arrive early to find good seats inside the tent. There is an entry fee, which must be paid when entering the event.

Activities continue Sunday at 11 a.m. with an early morning concert, a European brunch and folk dancing performances. These events take place at the tent and on a festival stage. People who wish to register for the brunch should call 06561-9683-30. For details, including the cost, call the Bitburg city administration at 06561-6001-0 or the town's tourist information office at 06561-94340.

Folk dances and music will also take place at 4 p.m. in the festival tent. Musical entertainment, including dance music will be provided, starting at 8 p.m.

One highlight of the Bitburg Folk Festival is the parade of the participants. The event kicks off at 2:30 p.m. Roads will be blocked off for traffic. Arrive early to find a good parking slot.

Monday, the last day of the event, features more dances and entertainment, taking place throughout the day in different spots of town. The festival continues through midnight. An amusement park will be set up for the festival. Also on Monday, families receive reduced fares.

The entertainment takes place in three different areas of town — in front of the Beda Platz; near the County Administration, located on Trierer Strasse; and on Petersplatz.

Out and about

(Note: Events are subject to change at short notice. If you want to double-check on an event prior to attending, call the telephone information office at 11833 and ask for a number to the tourist office in the town the event takes place. Tourist office agents, who usually speak English, can tell you whether an event was canceled.)

■Local flea markets take place Sunday in front of the Schweich Edeka market; at the Trier Messeplatz grounds; in front of the Gerolstein Hit market; inside and outside the Bernkastel Gueter hall and inside and outside the Daun Forum hall.

■The Zurlaubener Mosel Festival takes place Friday through Monday in Trier.

Bands perform along the Mosel River shore.

■The Zillo Festival takes place Saturday and Sunday and features rock music by 30 bands and musicians such as The Cure, Anne Clark, Subway to Sally, Deine Laikaen and more. The event takes place at Hahn airport.

■The Bitburg sales market takes place Wednesday on the

Bepadplatz.

■A wine and forest festival takes place in Kroeve-Koevenig July 19-21.

■Local flea markets take place July 21 at the Bitburg Hela parking house; in Bollendorf, in front of the Kenn Wal Mart market; in the Wittlich Extra market parking lot and along the Zeltingen-Rachtig Mosel shore.

Build cardio strength using resistance with new Spinning class

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Resistance in the workplace can set projects back, but in Spinning, resistance is how people build better bodies, according to Senior Master Sgt. Andy Flores, 52nd Services Squadron fitness center superintendent.

Spinning is a new aerobics class offered at the Spangdahlem AB gym, which uses specially designed stationary bikes to provide "a great cardiovascular workout," as Flores put it.

"Do this three times weekly for a month and there isn't a doubt members will improve their cycle-ergo scores," he said. "The class is a great way to learn how to develop a cycling rhythm which is the key to controlling breathing and the heart rate while riding."

Throughout the class, the instructor guides participants through a series of standing and seated "flats and climbs," which work the same muscles riders use when biking uphill and on flat terrain. "Climbs" are simulated by increasing the resistance on the bike wheel with a turn of a knob.

"What's nice about this exercise is you control the tension and adjust the resistance to meet your own physical abilities," said Senior Airman Ann Mitchell, 52nd SVS class instructor.

Although Spinning offers a tough workout almost guaranteed to bring on a good sweat, it's fairly easy to do, according to Staff Sgt. Dave Fortune, 52nd SVS class instructor.

"You just can't mess up because once you get your feet spinning on the bike they just keep moving," he said. "If you start to feel like your lost, just listen to the instructor who will guide you through the next move."

Other benefits Spinning offers include possible weight loss, increased energy, meeting other people and people can

ride even when the weather is bad, Mitchell said.

At a minimum, students should bring water and a towel to class. Flores also suggests students should wear biking shorts for additional comfort and cycling gloves for improved handlebar grip once sweating begins. Students can also borrow heart monitors at the fitness center customer service desk.

Currently the center offers Spinning Monday and Friday at 6:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Classes last 45 minutes, including muscle warm-up and cool-down. More class times will be added as needed to meet popularity demands, Flores said.

For more information, call the base fitness center at 452-6496.

Staff Sgt. Dave Fortune, 22nd Fighter Squadron dormitory manager and 52nd Services Squadron aerobics instructor, leads the Spangdahlem AB fitness center's first lunch hour Spinning class. Maj. Inez Sookma, 52nd LRS, Tech. Sgt. John Rivera, 52nd Fighter Wing Manpower Office, Kathryn Simpson, 52nd SVS framing shop, Airman 1st Class Jason Lane, 52nd Operations Support Squadron, and Senior Master Sgt. Andy Flores, 52nd SVS, push through their first Spinning experience.

Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

Sports Shorts

Aerobics schedule

The following aerobic classes take place in the Spangdahlem Air Base fitness center:

Monday and Wednesday

Abs, 6 a.m.

Legs and butt, 6:30 a.m.

Five for two, 11:30 a.m.

Kickboxing, 5:30 p.m.

Monday only

Funk, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Step, 11:30 a.m.

Legs, arms and butt, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday only

Step tone, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday

Kickboxing, 6 a.m.

Step, 11:30 a.m.

Abs, 5:30 p.m.

Legs and butt, 6 p.m.

Saturday

Step, 9 a.m.

AFSA golf tourney

The annual Air Force Sergeant's Association golf tournament takes place July 26 at the Eifel Mountain Golf Course. Cost is \$25 per person. Four people per team maximum. A prize presentation and cookout follows the event. Call Staff Sgt. Jonathan Sanders at 452-6652 for details.

Youth sports news

Eifel Youth Sports are located in Spangdahlem Air Base building 427 and Bitburg Annex building 2013. Call 452-7545 or 452-9274 for more information.

■Parents should schedule youth sports physicals as soon as possible for the upcoming school year. Call 06565-958333, Option 3, for more information.

■Flag football registration for youth ages 10-12 and 13-15 takes place now through July 31 at the youth centers. Age cutoff is Oct. 15.

■Soccer registration for youth ages 5-15 takes place now through July 31 at the youth centers. Cost is \$25.

Tae Kwon Do

Register for Tae Kwon Do classes in the Bitburg Annex building 84. Call 452-9508 for details.

Fitness center news

■The 52nd Services Squadron kicked off their new Fitness Incentive Program.

It's available at both the Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex fitness centers and is divided up into five separate fitness clubs: Shape and Tone Club (aerobics), Tour De Spangdahlem (biking), Arnold Project (weight lifting), Run Back to America Club (running/walking), and Climb Mount Bitburg Club (stairmaster).

For each club, participant progress is

logged into a database. As people reach particular goals outlined by the fitness center staff, they will receive prizes. Prizes are: a water bottle for the first level; fanny pack (T-shirt for Shape and Tone Club) for the second level; T-shirt (shorts for Shape and Tone Club) for the third level; and sweatshirt for the fourth level.

■The fitness centers also initiated a Fitness Enhancement Program. It consists of fitness assessments and various physical activity classes. Start a fitness program with a Microfit assessment. Appointments are available on Tuesdays. Call 452-6634 or 452-9174.

■Racquetball lessons begin Monday. Call 452-6634 for an appointment.

■The Introduction to Weight Training class takes place the second Thursday of each month.

The Selectorising Class takes place the fourth Thursday of every month. Selectorising is the use of fitness machines like Nautilus or BodyMasters to focus on select muscle groups. Both classes are available at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at either Spangdahlem Air Base or Bitburg Annex fitness centers.

■Both fitness centers hold a Fun Run the second Friday of each month at 8 a.m.

Commander's Trophy standings

The point totals below are as of June 20.

Small units

52nd Munitions Support Squadron -- 109

52nd Component Maintenance Squadron -- 70

52nd Operations Support Squadron -- 55

52nd Mission Support Squadron -- 46

606th Air Control Squadron -- 30

52nd Services Squadron -- 29

52nd Comptroller Squadron -- 18

52nd Maintenance Operations Squadron -- 15

Det. 17, 372nd Training Squadron -- 5

52nd Contracting Squadron -- 0

Large units

52nd Medical Group -- 166

52nd Civil Engineer Squadron -- 146

52nd Communications Squadron -- 138

52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron -- 118

52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron -- 97

52nd Security Forces Squadron -- 78

23rd Fighter Squadron -- 73

22nd Fighter Squadron -- 42

81st Fighter Squadron -- 10

High school workouts

High school students wanting to work out during the summer break can visit the Bitburg High School weight room, gym and track Monday through Thursday 6-7:30 p.m.

Coach Rik Carr or another BHS coach will be there to monitor all workouts. Fall sports participants should plan to take part.

For details, call Carr at 06561-2020.